

REMARKS

No claims are canceled or added in this paper. Claim 33 is amended in this paper. Therefore, claims 1-38 are pending. Of these claims, claims 4, 12, 16, 29 and 32-33 correspond to non-elected species, as explained further below. Accordingly, claims 1-3, 5-11, 13-15, 17-28, 30-31 and 34-38 are under active consideration.

In the outstanding Office Action, the Patent Office recites (in pertinent part) the following election requirement:

This application contains claims directed to the following patentably distinct species of the claimed invention:

Embodiment 1: Figures 1-6;

Embodiment 2: Figures 8, 9, 11;

Embodiment 3: Figure 10;

Embodiment 4: Figure 12;

Embodiment 5: Figures 13, 14, 15, 16.

Applicant is required under 35 U.S.C. 121 to elect a single disclosed species for prosecution on the merits to which the claims shall be restricted if no generic claim is finally held to be allowable. Currently, claim 1 is generic.

Applicant is advised that a reply to this requirement must include an identification of the species that is elected consonant with this requirement, **and a listing of all claims readable thereon, including any claims subsequently added.** An argument that a claim is allowable or that all claims are generic is considered nonresponsive unless accompanied by an election. (Emphasis in original.)

In response to the foregoing election requirement, Applicants respectfully elect the species of Embodiment 1, Figures 1-6. Claims 1-3, 5-11, 13-15, 17-28, 30-31 and 34-38 are readable on the elected species.

It is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance. Prompt and favorable action is earnestly solicited.

If there are any fees due in connection with the filing of this paper that are not accounted for, the Examiner is authorized to charge the fees to our Deposit Account No. 11-1755. If a fee is required for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 that is not accounted for already, such an extension of time is requested and the fee should also be charged to our Deposit Account.

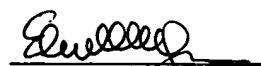
Respectfully submitted,

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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on September 16, 2004


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